



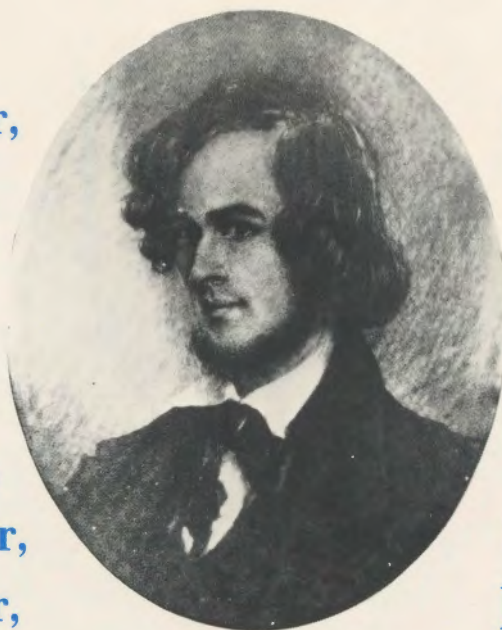
ל'פ"ח

The shekel

Volume XV, No. 3

May-June 1982

Artist,
Explorer,
Photog-
rapher,
Jewish
Culture
Activist,
Educator,
Inventor,



Creator of
Numismatic
Art and
Painter of
Prominent
Americans
including
Lincoln and
Judah Truro

SOLOMON NUNES CARVALHO



Published by the
AMERICAN ISRAEL
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



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As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram



Dear Friends:

Summer is approaching; but your AINA office is gearing up to its Fall and Winter schedules.

Shortly after Labor Day, from September 9-12, you are invited to join your fellow numismatists in New York City for the *Greater New York Currency and Coin Convention*.

Among special guests you will be likely to meet is Adna Wilde, president of the American Numismatic Association. You will be able to add to your Israeli collection; and the NASCA Auction assures you of great offerings in American or other special interest coins, currency and medals.

This most important event is at the New York Sheraton Hotel, just above Times Square. Join us for the educational and social events which will make this a memorable occasion.

Lena and I will have at that time just returned from the mid-August ANA Convention in Boston at the Boston Sheraton. This event from August 16th to the 22nd, will provide AINA with the opportunity to greet our New England friends. At the AINA table, meet Board Director Moe Weinschel, who will assist Lena and myself.

Guests of the ANA Convention will be treated to the historic Kagan-Maremba Exhibit, the most comprehensive all-Israel coin and currency exhibition. Arnold Kagan, who personally assembled this vital collection in the names of his families, plans to be present to meet those who will make this event another reason to visit the Convention.

Without much fanfare, you may have noticed that THE SHEKEL is once again in the able hands of the man who more than any other past editor has shaped the nature of our organization's most important voice. George Gilbert has been a valued aide to me and I wish to acknowledge publicly my appreciation for his dedication to making our publication so interesting, numismatically, historically and pleasurably.

The real strength of THE SHEKEL, says George, and I agree, is the diversity and intellect of our numerous correspondents. In the last issue we had articles from Canada, Israel and the United States, covering coinages relating to Jewish interest subjects in over a dozen different countries. To these writers I have long been indebted. I wish here to compliment them on their contributions which bring so many benefits to all of us. It has been my pleasure to know many of these contributors through the meetings and conventions I have attended so regularly.

Thank you one and all.

Shalom,

Morris

SOLOMON NUNES CARVALHO

His Numismatic Art Circulated Among Millions of Americans Over 100 Years Ago.

By George Gilbert, LM #60

Inspired by a monograph of John A. Muscalus, Ph.D.
and the enthusiasm of Morris Bram.

It would have been enough of a contribution to the character of American life if his artwork on banknotes were his legacy.

It would have been enough of a contribution to the building of Jewish cultural life in America if he were but remembered for his contributions and service to Jewish community and school groups from points as distant as a small Caribbean city, East Coast Cities and even west to Los Angeles.

It would have been enough if his artwork and photography contributions to the dramatic Fremont Expeditions helped explore the West.

It would have been enough just to have been the portraitist of such contemporaries as Abraham Lincoln and Judah Touro.

It would have been enough to have been one of the prominent inventors of the now universally accepted steam-heating systems for homes and apartments.

But Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897) managed to crowd all of these activities into a multi-faceted career of artist-photographer-explorer-inventor-businessman. His numismatic legacy has been traced in

the 1969 monograph, *Solomon Carvalho's Art on Paper Money Issued in the United States and Canada* by John A. Muscalus¹.

Carvalho was born in Charleston, S.C. to a family which prized secular and Jewish culture, both of which he pursued throughout his days².

Southern Born Artist

When he was twenty years old, he sailed to the West Indies on a trading ship which was wrecked near Cape Hatteras. He swam ashore with a rope which was instrumental in saving the passengers and crew³.



Millions have seen Child with the Rabbits on U.S. and Canadian bank notes.

As early as 1844 his active leadership in Jewish causes has been documented with his service as secretary of the organizational meeting of "the first Jewish Sunday School" to be established in the West Indies at the *Congregation Nidhe Israel* of Bridgetown, Barbados. He sent minutes of the group's formation to the Jewish publications in Philadelphia and London⁴.

Beginning in 1848 he was a member of the Board of Managers of the Hebrew Education Society of Philadelphia, believed by his biographer Bertram Wallace Korn to be "the most progressive agency for Jewish education in the land at the time." He was a founding member of the Society and his name appears among those to whom its charter was granted⁵.

Sketching and Painting

Carvalho from his youth on had shown a meritorious skill in sketching and painting. Sometime in the years before 1854, he created *Child with the Rabbits*, a painting which subsequently appeared as a steel-line engraving on banknotes published by *Draper, Welsh & Co., Philadelphia* and by the *American Bank Note Company, New York* for known banks in the states of Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York and Pennsylvania, but also in Canada.

The earliest of these notes has been traced by Dr. Muscalus to a \$1 note of July 1, 1855 (*Planters and Mechanics Bank, Dalton, Ga.*) The latest dates to a \$1 note of the *Bank of Cape Ann, Gloucester, Massachusetts* in 1864⁶.

Obviously during the ten years of their circulation (1854-1864) these banknotes with the Carvalho-inspired embellishments touched the lives of uncountable millions of hands, making Carvalho's creation one of the most widely circulated

BANK NOTES WITH THE CARVALHO PAINTING

Connecticut

- \$1. The Elm City Bank, New Haven, April 1, 1862.

Georgia

- \$1. Planters and Mechanics Bank, Dalton, July 1, 1855.

Massachusetts

- \$2. Blackstone Bank, Boston, Aug., 18—.
- \$1. Bank of Cape Ann, Gloucester, Sept. 1, 1864.

Minnesota

- \$5. Bank of Owatonna, Owatonna, March 17, 1859.

Nebraska

- \$1. Omaha City Bank and Land Co., Omaha, Feb. 1, 1858.

New York

- \$2. Smith's Bank of Perry.
- \$1. Unadilla Bank, Unadilla, Aug. 1, 1856.

North Carolina

- \$10. Bank of Cape Fear, Wilmington & branches.

Pennsylvania

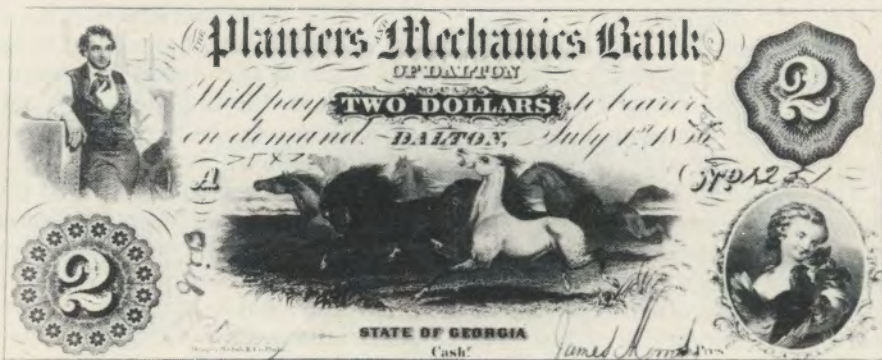
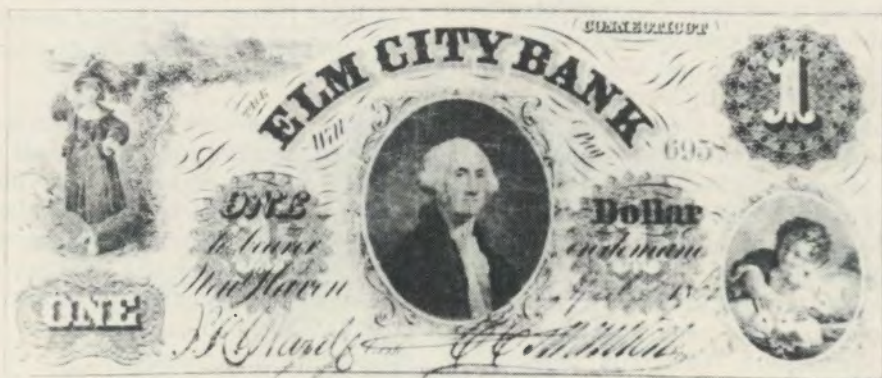
- \$5. The Allentown Bank, Allentown, March 14, 1864.

Canada

- \$5. Bank of Brantford, Brantford, Nov. 1, 1859.
 - \$5. Bank of Brantford, Sault St. Marie, Nov. 1, 1859.
-

examples of Jewish artistic accomplishment of his time.

Typical of many artists of his period, Carvalho became fascinated with the photographic process which had emerged in France in 1839 and rapidly spread throughout the Western world. The famed painter-inventor, Samuel F. B. Morse learned of the process first hand in Paris in 1839 from its inventor, L.J. M. Daguerre. He returned to America to launch a



number of fellow artists as daguerreotypists, the world's first photographers.

It is known that Carvalho had begun experimenting with photography about the middle of the 1840s, before meeting with Morse who accepted a dinner invitation from Carvalho on January 29, 1848⁷.

East Coast Daguerreotypist

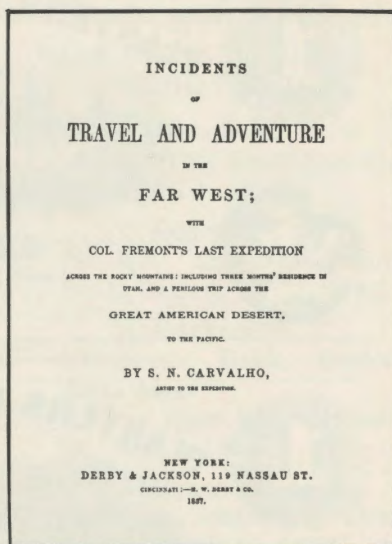
Carvalho plunged enthusiastically into photography by 1850⁸ following the French system of daguerreotypy. He established himself as a photographer in Baltimore, Philadelphia and then in New York. In 1852, he invented a technique of the enameling of daguerreotypes. Examples today would be very rare.

In 1853, he was employed by one of the leading Broadway portrait galleries, that of Jeremiah Gurney, himself one of America's foremost daguerrians⁹.

During these years Colonel John C. Fremont had been making explorations of the West and was that year planning his fifth expedition, the famed Fremont Expedition which was to seek a path for a railway system to cross the Rockies and to reach the Pacific Coast. Fremont foresaw the usefulness of photography to confirm his topologic discoveries to illustrate maps and data accumulated on his mule-pack ventures into the dangerous West. His personal sketches and amateurish attempts at the difficult daguerrian processes were unsuccessful¹⁰.

For his 1853-54 Expedition he determined to bring along a seasoned artist. Carvalho, then 39, qualified for both his artistic and photographic skills.

The Fremont party assembled in Missouri in September, 1853 and worked its way across the plains of Kansas where Carvalho made "occasional daguerreotypes of Indian settlements . . . and at different times,



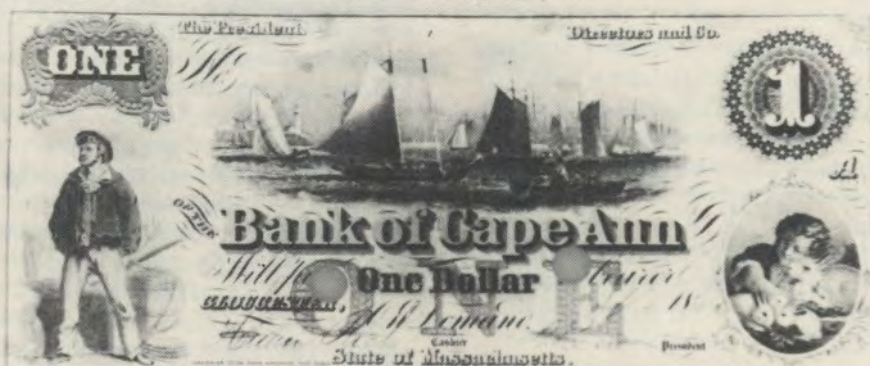
Carvalho's memoir of the 1854 Fremont Expedition.

of the buffalo in motion." According to the monograph which Carvalho wrote following the Expedition, *Incidents of Travel and Adventure in the Far West* (1857), "I was not successful, although I made several pictures of distant herds."

On encountering the Cheyenne Indians, Carvalho found himself almost to be a god-figure. The Cheyenne attitude was not solely related to his ability to make pictures but also because, using the mercury essential to the daguerrian process, he could "silver" brass rings and the ornaments of the Indians.

As the party neared the Rockies, travel became more difficult. Fremont made a tragic decision to cross the Rockies at snowtime. Despite ice and snow, the expedition struggled mid-winter to cross the Continental Divide in south central Colorado.

Carvalho made heroic efforts to accomplish his assignment, photography of the vistas, even from mountaintops with temperatures of 20° and 30°F. below zero. He wrote to the *Photographic Art-Journal* that he made daguerreotypes "often stand-





Carvalho photographed—then painted—
America's Far West.

ing to my waist in snow, buffing, coating, and mercurializing plates in the open air." His contemporaries who knew of his preparations for expedition photography had "prognosticated . . . that under the difficulties I was likely to encounter on the snow-capped mountains, I would fail; I am happy to state that I found no such word in my vocabulary . . ."¹¹

All fifty pack animals fell several hundred feet to the bottom of a ravine; two were killed and the tent poles were smashed. The men slept on open snow covered only with blankets. The horses were then slaughtered for food¹².

The total trip became disastrous. All heavy baggage and the camera equipment, all but the processed plates, were abandoned in the snow.

The group finally reached the other side of the Rockies and found shelter in a Utah Mormon settlement

in February where Carvalho, now without a camera, abandoned the party to recuperate. After some time in the Mormon communities and a meeting with Brigham Young, Carvalho proceeded by stage to California some weeks later.

Early Jewish Life in Los Angeles

There for a time he lived in the tiny settlement of Los Angeles where once again he took up the question of Jewish identity, giving assistance to the formation of the first Jewish communal organization of the few Jewish settlers. They had only recently arrived in the West as part of the 1849 gold-rush and the ensuing development of California.

His photographs of the West, first taken by Fremont to California, were brought to New York. In the winter of 1855 and 1856, the famed studios of Mathew B. Brady were engaged to copy these unique daguerreotypes onto glass plates. From these, prints on paper could be made in numerous quantities. According to Mrs. Fremont, some months were necessary to complete the copy work. It is known that paper prints were made and circulated to artists and engravers as the source materials for the illustrations for the report Fremont proposed to issue on the Expedition.

A fire in the Fremont home destroyed the original Expedition plates, the copy negatives and the few remaining paper prints shortly thereafter. No trace of prints identifiable to these negatives can be confirmed among Fremont, Brady or Carvalho heirs¹³. Today it is not known which of the illustrations from the Fremont accounts of the trip were based on Carvalho daguerreotypes; some definitely were.

It was on Carvalho's return from the frontier that his career as painter-illustrator-portraitist enjoys its finest years. By 1856 he was serving in Baltimore as Corresponding Secre-

tary of the Artists' Association of Maryland and he was showing his paintings of the West at the Maryland Historical Society¹⁴. Among his famous canvases based on the Expedition are *View in the Cochotopé Pass*; *Entrance to the Valley of St. Clare, between Utah and California*; and *Sunset on the Los Angeles River*.

The most famed of the Carvalho paintings of the Expedition was *Grand Canyon of the Colorado*.

It is possible that the five-cent postage stamp of the Trans-Mississippi-"Omaha" Exposition of 1898 portraying Fremont on the Rocky Mountains, was based on an engraving by N. Orr, itself based on one of the Carvalho photos.



Fremont honored on stamp possibly based on Carvalho 1853 photo.

His *Child with the Rabbits* had been completed earlier. It was in these years of the production of his Western theme paintings that it had become basic art for the bank note industry.

His portrait of Judah Touro, today at the Touro Infirmary in New Orleans, was created in 1861 during a visit to that city in the Spring of 1861. This trip had the combined purposes of the sale of prayer-books for Isaac Leeser, an Orthodox rabbi, a longtime friend and a pro-slavery¹⁵ religious counselor, and for the introduction of the Carvalho Steam-Heating Process to the South. Carvalho, painter-photographer, was now a businessman.

In a letter written at the time to Leeser, Carvalho, a born Southerner,

explained his stand on behalf of the rebel cause.

"I believe in the great principle of men being governed by their own consent. I believe the people of the South can and will maintain a separate government—time will develop all things."

The war over, having spent all the actual war years in New York City, he returned to the easel in 1865 to paint the memorable portrait of Abraham Lincoln now hanging at Brandeis University. In 1867 he founded the Carvalho Heating and Super-Heating Co. for which he patented several lucrative processes.

His theological studies led to long theological treatises which he published, among them one on Mosaic cosmogony. He was a contributor to the Jewish periodical, *The Occident*.

He died in New York City in 1897. His paintings live on a small number of walls. His bank note contributions live in paper money collections. ♣

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JEWS AND JEWISH SUBJECTS ON COINS & CURRENCY

Part II

by David Paszamant



Haiti issued a 100-gourde coin in 1977 depicting both Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat. This coin, naturally, commemorated the peace accords signed by these two national leaders of Israel and Egypt.



In 1976, on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Viktor Kaplan (1876-1934) Czechoslovakia issued this 100 Korun coin to honor one of the geniuses of Eastern Europe.

Kaplan was a brilliant engineer who was educated in Austria and Germany. He designed most of the early 20th century major water power and turbine systems for Austria, Czechoslovakia and Russia.

His biography in the European guide to prominent individuals does not indicate his family roots or religious information. I never heard of a Kaplan who was not Jewish. Have you?

Austria has just released a 1981 dated 500-schilling .640 fine silver coin commemorating the birth of Otto Bauer (1881-1937). Bauer was an Austrian socialist leader who was prominent in the Socialist International as spokesman for the Marxist left-wing of the Social Democrats.

Bauer was the Austrian Foreign Minister 1918-19. He helped organize a workers' uprising in Vienna in 1934. After the uprising was suppressed, he fled to France where he died in 1937.¹³



In 1969 Jordan issued a pair of coins depicting scenes of Jerusalem. Both scenes highlighted the Dome of the Rock mosque within the borders of the sovereign State of Israel. Granted, these coins were issued to stir up sympathy amongst the Arabs for Jordan's claim to Jerusalem, nevertheless, the scenes are Israeli.



Columbus and his brother
study mathematics.

Now, we can get a little controversial. In 1975, Jamaica issued a 45mm \$10 silver coin depicting Christopher Columbus. The U.S. issued two commemorative 50-cent pieces, one dated 1892 and the other dated 1893.



I hear the rumblings out there, so let me put forth one article of many that I've seen that promotes the thesis that Columbus was Jewish.

The claim that Christopher Columbus was Jewish was first attributed to a Spanish scholar in the 1890s.

In a recent issue of *Midstream*, Charles Alperin, an attorney, re-examines evidence produced by scholars since then. He concludes that the only hypothesis which accounts for the gaps and inconsistencies in all past Columbus biographies are his Jewish origins.

The Jewish Columbus

Mr. Alperin analyzes various aspects of the Columbus enigma in reaching his decision: Columbus' own secrecy as to his origins; his extensive Jewish associations; the fact that he never wrote in Italian; his knowledge of the Old Testament; his use of Jewish phrases and references; his last will and testament; his use of the "Beit-Hay" symbol (beit hay is an abbreviation of the Hebrew *Baruch haShem*—"Praise the Lord."—still in use today by pious Jews on all letters); rumors in his own time; his family name—a fascinating story of changes made several times by Columbus; the prologue at the beginning of the journal of his first voyage and its ambiguous references to Jews; his mystical signature; and his delayed departure—which provides an interesting sidelight on Jewish folklore.

Writes Alperin:

"Although the entire crew and all necessary supplies were fully aboard the *Nina*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria* on August 2nd ready for sailing, for some unknown reason the first voyage in 1492 didn't commence until one-half hour before sunrise on August 3rd. Why? . . . August 2nd in 1492 was *Tisha B'Av*, the 9th of the month of *Ab*; a widely-observed fast day among all traditional Jews.

"On this same date, though separated by over 600 years, Tradition says the first Temple and the

second Temple in Jerusalem were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and Titus of Rome, respectively.

"No traditional Jew who is aware of the ill-fated significance of the date will ever commence a venture, business or otherwise, on that day; tradition specifically says that it cannot be crowned with success."

"... no other viable explanation."

The Jewish roots of Columbus would make this otherwise inexplicable delay understandable. In fact, according to Mr. Alperin, "his Jewishness makes a great many facts comprehensible."

Mr. Alperin concedes that each of the problems he deals with can be explained away without invoking the Jewish hypothesis; but he adds,

"when the quantity of evidence becomes substantial, one can, in any fair judgment, no longer attribute it to circumstance. What is more, the sole explanation that can fit the dozens of curious facts stated in Columbus' Jewish origin, and this conclusion fits them all. Some of them permit no other viable explanation."

Therefore, Mr. Alperin concludes, with Roman Catholic friar historian, Brother Nectario M, that Columbus was

"a member of a Jewish family of so-called 'Conversos' ... the proofs that he was of Jewish origin are innumerable."¹⁰

I have a completely open mind (so long as no one disagrees with me) so I'll be very interested to see any proofs (either way) on 'the Columbus was Jewish thesis' from readers of this article. Please communicate directly with the author at P.O. Box 215, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

Last, but not least, I offer for your examination two different designs of Egypt. The first design is a four-piece set (all of the same design) which is a commemorative of the first anniversary of the October War (The Yom Kippur War).



In 1980, Egypt issued several coins to commemorate the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty. In addition to a non-precious 10-piastre coin, they also issued a one-pound silver as well as three gold coins denominated as one, five and ten pounds.



By express authority of the Egyptian Government, four coin proof sets (three gold and one silver) of the Sadat 'Peace Treaty' commemorative coins were struck for presentation to President Sadat, Prime Minister Begin and President Carter, in recognition of their landmark achievement.

The 10-pound coin was apparently limited to a mintage of fifty pieces, so that fifty sets only could possibly exist. Most of these are held by the Egyptian Government for presentation purposes. One set each has been presented to Sadat, Begin and Carter. The set presented to President Carter resides in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The chart summarizes the cited coins.

Judah Philip Benjamin (1811-84) was born in St. Thomas, British West Indies. His parents were English Jews who had intended to land and settle in New Orleans. Due to the British blockade, the ship on which they were passengers was not allowed into that port, hence the unanticipated landing on the British Island.

Later, the Benjamin family settled in Wilmington, N.C.

In 1825, Benjamin entered Yale University. Three years later, the family moved to New Orleans. In 1832 he was admitted to the Bar. Benjamin enjoyed a successful practice in Louisiana before he was elected to the State Legislature in 1842.

In 1847, he was admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court and in 1852 he was elected to the United States Senate from Louisiana. On Feb. 4, 1861 he withdrew from the Senate to ally himself with the Confederacy when his state seceded from the Union.

Back in the South, he was named Attorney General of the Confederate States of America. For a time he held the post of Acting Secretary of War, but resigned. From 1862 until 1865, Judah Benjamin was Secretary of State. He has been called "the brains of the Confederacy."

Following the collapse of the Confederate States, Benjamin fled to England, where he continued his legal career. There became a distinguished barrister. His treatise, *Law of Sale of Personal Property*, published in 1868, is still a standard work. In 1872 he became Queen's Counsel.

Judah Benjamin died of poor



The Judah P. Benjamin portrait which appears on Confederate \$2 notes

COUNTRY	CAT. NO.	YEAR	SUBJECT	DENOMINATION	MINTAGE
EAST GERMANY	Y20	1968	KARL MARX	20 MARKS	100,000
EAST GERMANY	Y30	1971	ROSA LUXEMBURG	20 MARKS	100,000
EAST GERMANY	Y36	1972	HEINRICH HEINE	10 MARKS	100,000
EAST GERMANY	—	1979	ALBERT EINSTEIN	5 MARKS	60,000
EAST GERMANY	Y71	1979	NATHAN THE WEISE	20 MARKS	?
POLAND	—	1978	JANUSZ KORCZAK	100 ZLOTYCH	30,000
POLAND	—	1978	JANUSZ KORCZAK	100 ZLOTYCH (PATTERN)	3,000
POLAND	—	1979	HENRYK WIENIAWSKI	100 ZLOTYCH	30,000
POLAND	—	1979	HENRYK WIENIAWSKI	100 ZLOTYCH (PATTERN)	3,000
POLAND	—	1979	LUDWIK ZAMENHOF	100 ZLOTYCH	30,000
POLAND	—	1979	LUDWIK ZAMENHOF	100 ZLOTYCH (PATTERN)	3,000
SWITZERLAND	Y62	1979	ALBERT EINSTEIN	5 FRANCS UNC	900,000
SWITZERLAND	Y62	1979	ALBERT EINSTEIN	5 FRANCS PROOF	35,000
SWITZERLAND	Y63	1979	EINSTEIN FORMULAE	5 FRANCS UNC	900,000
SWITZERLAND	Y63	1979	EINSTEIN FORMULAE	5 FRANCS PROOF	35,000
AUSTRIA	Y131	1973	MAX REINHARDT	25 SHILLINGS UNC	2,323,000
AUSTRIA	Y131	1973	MAX REINHARDT	25 SHILLINGS PROOF	17,700
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Y102	1976	VIKTOR KAPLAN	100 KORU UNC	75,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Y102	1976	VIKTOR KAPLAN	100 KORUN PROOF	5,000
HAITI	—	1977	SADAT & BEGIN	100 GOURDE	?
HAITI	—	1977	SADAT & BEGIN	200 GOURDE (GOLD)	?
U.S.A.	—	1892	COLUMBUS	50 CENTS	950,000
U.S.A.	—	1893	COLUMBUS	50 CENTS	1,550,405
JAMAICA	Y40	1975	COLUMBUS	\$10 FM (MATTE)	30
JAMAICA	Y40	1975	COLUMBUS	\$10 FM UNC	5,758
JAMAICA	Y40a	1975	COLUMBUS	\$10 FM .925 SILVER PROOF	29,000
EGYPT	Y150	1974	OCTOBER WAR	5 PIASTRES	2,000,000
EGYPT	Y151	1974	OCTOBER WAR	10 PIASTRES	2,000,000
EGYPT	Y152	1974	OCTOBER WAR	1 POUND	50,000
EGYPT	YA152	1974	OCTOBER WAR	5 POUNDS (GOLD)	1,000,000
EGYPT	—	1980	PEACE TREATY	10 PIASTRES	?
EGYPT	—	1980	PEACE TREATY	1 POUND (SILVER)	10,000
EGYPT	—	1980	PEACE TREATY	1 POUND (GOLD)	500
EGYPT	—	1980	PEACE TREATY	5 POUNDS (GOLD)	125
EGYPT	—	1980	PEACE TREATY	10 POUNDS (GOLD)	50
AUSTRIA	—	1981	OTTO BAUER	500 SCHILLING	?
JORDAN	H6	1969	OLD CITY	½ DINAR	12,000
JORDAN	H11	1969	OLD CITY	25 DINARS (GOLD)	6,000

health in 1884.

The portrait of Judah P. Benjamin appears on the Confederate \$2 notes.

Altogether, there are six types of these notes as follows:

CRISWELL TYPE 38 SLABAUGH NO. 26,
DATED "SEPTEMBER 2, 1961"

CRISWELL TYPE 42 SLABAUGH NO. 45,
DATED "JUNE 2, 1862"

CRISWELL TYPE 43 SLABAUGH NO. 46,
DATED "JUNE 2, 1962"

CRISWELL TYPE 54 SLABAUGH NO. 51,
DATED "DEC. 2ND, 1862"

CRISWELL TYPE 61 SLABAUGH NO. 59,
DATED "APRIL 6TH, 1863"

CRISWELL TYPE 70 SLABAUGH NO. 67,
DATED "FEB. 17TH, 1864"

This listing is believed to be incomplete; all readers offering additions or corrections are requested to make to communicate directly with the author at the address provided.

FOOTNOTES

¹ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JUDAICA
PUBLISHED BY KETER PUBLISHING HOUSE JERUSALEM.

²IBID

³IBID

⁴IBID

⁵IBID

⁶IBID

⁷IBID

⁸IBID

⁹IBID

¹⁰THE JEWISH JOURNAL OF RARITAN VALLEY

¹¹SPECIAL REPORT OF I.C.C., MONTPELIER, VT.

¹²FROM AN ARTICLE BY HARRY FLOWER THAT AP-
PEARED IN THE 6/10/81 ISSUE OF COIN WORLD

¹³ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JUDAICA
PUBLISHED BY KETER PUBLISHING HOUSE JERUSALEM

An Interesting Variety of A Coin of Neapolis

By Eli Semmelman, Haifa

Lately I found an interesting variety in a collection of Neapolis coins in Tel Aviv.



Illustration No. 1

Illustration No. 1: Coin of Philip Junior (247-249 C.E.) The Emperor is riding horse facing to left; the coin is in Hill, No. 142¹; Obverse: Bust of Philip. The legend: IMPOM JVLPHI LIPPOFAUG.

Reverse: The Emperor riding horse to right, plaudaemtum flying behind him, right hand raised in salutation

of Mount Grizim, above inscription, COL SERG NEAP. This coin today is in my collection.



Illustration No. 2

The other coin, illustration No. 2: Obverse: Philip junior (same legend as on obverse). Reverse: Emperor riding to right. Written: COL SERG. In exergue: NEAPOL. This is possibly the first coin known with this reverse.

Photography: Mrs. Lea Lifschitz, Haifa, Israel. 📷

1. Catalogue of Greek Coins of Palestine, by G. G. Hill

WOMEN'S TOKENS OF ERETZ ISRAEL

by Shmuel Matalon, Tel-Aviv

Paper tokens were quite common in Eretz Israel during the second quarter of this century, when the country was under the British Mandate. First and foremost in these tokens was the city of Jerusalem. The number of tokens issued there alone surpasses those issued in the entire country altogether.

An inquiry into one field of these tokens, grocery tokens, would show quite a number of tokens bearing the names of women. At first one might jump to the conclusion that here was a repetition or continuation of a habit quite common in the Diaspora of Eastern Europe before World War II. There the husband would devote himself to learning at a Yeshiva or in other holy quarters, while the wife would take care of worldly problems and maintain the family financially. A deeper inquiry, however, shows that this was not the case. There might be a single example of such an arrangement, that's all.

On examining the tokens that we know, we find at least the names of six women who were in the grocery business. They issued tokens bearing their names in Jerusalem, which is quite a few in comparison with the total number of grocery stores in that city at that time.

The denomination of grocery stores of the Mandatory period range from $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mil to 250 Mils. The denomination of $\frac{1}{4}$ is quite exceptional, and if memory serves right, it appears only on the Zik grocery tokens of Ramat Hasharon.

In most cases, they range from 1 Mil to 100 Mils. And so do most of the tokens of these six women:

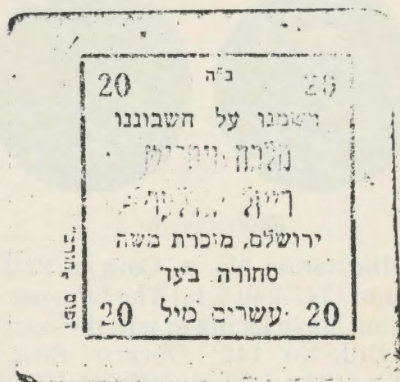
1. Malka Lurie
2. Malka Weisfish
3. Reisel Yadler
4. Geshke Engelstein
5. Hana Yerushalmi
6. Bashe Hene Manisevitch

These are the tokens and their legends:



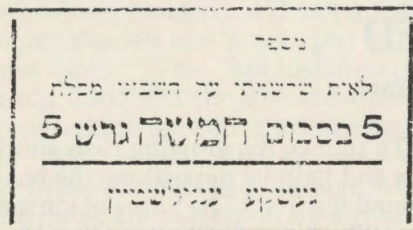
Token No. 1
Malka Lurie grocery store, Kerem,
Please give bearer grocery
to the amount of 100 Mils

This is the only denomination known.



Token No. 2
God be blessed
We have credited you
Malka Weisfish and Reisel Yadler
Jerusalem Maşkeret Moshe
Merchandise to the amount of 20 Mils

Other tokens known—50 Mils and 100 Mils.



Token No. 3
Number . . .
I have credited your account for grocery to the amount of 5 piastres
Geske Engelstein

Other denominations known: 2 piastres.

Piastres were used during the Turkish rule, but also during the first years of the British Mandate.

Token No. 4
Hana Yerushalmi grocery store
Jerusalem, Neve Bezalet
Good for merchandise to the amount of
Two Eretz-Israeli Mils



This term "Eretz-Israeli Mils" does not normally appear on grocery tokens. Other denominations are not known, probably exist.

Token No. 5
Basha Hene Manisevitch
Old Beit Israel, Jerusalem
Grocery
Amount 50 Pruta

Other denominations known: 50, 200, 250 Prutot. This last token was, of course, beyond the mandatory period when prutot were in use. ✡

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SIMS, KAGAN and WEINBERG ELECTED TO AINA BOARD

Results of the 1982 election of members of the Board of Directors conducted by first class mail this spring have been certified by Certified Public Accountant Barry Zimmerman of Tamarac, Florida, announced the AINA Elections Committee. The new officers will take their seats effective with the Board meeting to be held at the AINA Convention in New York City during mid-May.

The following candidates were elected:

Donna J. Sims, California
Arnold Kagan, Florida
Alan Weinberg, New York City

Regional Directors Sidney L. Olson (Southeast); Moe Weinschel

(Brooklyn, Queens and L.I., N.Y.) and Irving Rudin (New England) were unopposed and were reelected.

All of the candidates have been active volunteers for AINA for many years. All have been members of INS groups within their residential areas.

The Election Board which had been appointed to oversee the campaigns and mailing included Rose Kantor, Julius Kantor, Irving Cantor and Ray Miller, announced Morris Bram, president.

Members of the Board are elected annually so that members may retire or be reinstated. The Board elects the organization's President and other officers at its annual meeting. Elections are conducted under the By-Laws of the organization. ✡

“REGISTERED CHEQUES” THE ANGLO-PALESTINE COMPANY LIMITED

by Sylvia Haffner

In 1902, a bank was established under the name of the Anglo-Palestine Company Limited. The bank has operated under Turkish rule, the British Mandate, and under the State of Israel.

The establishment of the Anglo-Palestine Company Ltd. in London in 1902 was due largely to the initiative of Dr. Theodor Herzl. David Leventin opened the first office in the city of Jaffa in 1903, when the country was a neglected district of the Ottoman Empire. Civil legislation did not exist, there was no official land registry, and corporate bodies could neither own land nor register mortgages.

The population on both sides of the Jordan River totaled about 500,000, of which the Jews formed an insignificant part. The bank's task was to teach the public about bank loans and how they were to be repaid. Borrowers organized cooperative societies in the villages and towns so that they could receive credit.

In 1914, Turkey entered World War I on the side of Germany. The bank, being British, became an enemy institution. In November, all of the bank's branches were closed by the Turkish authorities and all available cash confiscated. As the bank had foreseen such a possibility, all of the books and most of the cash were not on the premises, enabling the bank to carry on quietly.

The bank's policy throughout the war was to maintain, so far as possible, all Jewish position and property. It advanced money for the upkeep of citrus groves, saving much property from ruin.

To relieve the growing cash shortage and help its depositors, the bank issued the first of its forms of currency: "Registered Cheques," which served as substitute currency until the end of the war.

First Issued in 1914

The first series of checks was issued on August 27, 1914 on white paper. They were printed by the Buchdruckerei Industrie, in Vienna, and were endorsed on the backs. The second issue was printed in Jerusalem by Lith. Monsohn on November 3, 1914.

The cheques were issued in values of 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Francs. The bank guaranteed to pay the stated sums, "To the extent and situation that its reserves will allow." These cheques were called by the bank "Registered Cheques" or bank-notes. Because the bank was highly trusted, these cheques were held in the same esteem as the official bank-notes and they were thus able to create a more liquid money market. It has been stated that the total issue of the "Registered Cheques" amounted to around 40,000 Francs.

A Recent Hoard

The "Registered Cheques" described here, are from a recent hoard discovered in Jerusalem, with the values of 10, 20, and 50 Francs. I have not seen the 5 or 100 Franc cheques, although I am sure they exist.

Turkish stamps appear on the 10 and 20 Francs. The serial numbers range from five digits to six digits. In the left, lower corner, "Closed on Saturdays and Jewish Holidays."

I have not physically seen these cheques, only photocopies. The notes are exceedingly rare. Because the copies probably did not fit the copier, the left end is not clear but it does say, "The Anglo-Palestine Comp. Ltd." On the top, right hand corner, there appears a printer number "190" which also appeared on the first 10 Franc cheque I have seen. The dates are placed on by a rubber stamp. The 10 Francs are both dated, Sept. 27, 1914. The 50 Francs is dated October 16, 1914. The other cheques appear to be undated.

The signature on the top right, directly under "Register The Anglo-

Palestine Co., Ltd." is the same on all five specimens and is in English. The signatures on the bottom right appear in English on two cheques and in Hebrew on the other three. There are also the numbers "49" and "51" appearing next to the serial numbers, written in by hand. I have no idea what they indicate.

If you the reader, have additional information on these "Registered Cheques" please share it with us. ✉

(Editor's note: author Haffner and other writers for *The Shekel* may be contacted at P.O. Box 25790, Tammarac, Fla. 33320.)

TWO NEW NUMISMATIC ITEMS

A KEYRING MEDAL

In a refreshing innovation, the IGCAM now offers a keyring holding the 45mm coppernickel "Masada Medal". Priced at \$7.00, the popular Masada Medal now becomes a personal memento or gift item.

It was originally issued in 1965 to mark the completion of restoration work on Masada. The excavations were led by Prof. Yigal Yadin with thousands of volunteers from all over the world.

In 1979 IGCAM issued the Masada Medal in the 45mm coppernickel size to reach the general public.



Now, in response to requests from tourists and especially visitors to Masada, this inexpensive and beautiful item has been made available as a keyring.

PANORAMA OF JERUSALEM / BRONZE 70mm

The "Jerusalem-Knesset" Medal, one of the most popular Israel medals, is now offered in bronze 70mm (weight 140 grams). Priced at \$15.00 by the IGCAM, it includes a handsome olivewood folding box.

The large size allows the panorama of Jerusalem to be depicted in all its magnificence, with a three-dimensional effect. The reverse of the medal which depicts the Knesset Building has been slightly redesigned in an impressive manner. ☆

MEXICAN JEWRY'S PROUD HERITAGE

by Edward Baruch



In June of 1967, the Jewish community of Mexico decided to strike a 40-mm gold-plated bronze medal to commemorate Israel's Six-Day War. It did not portray tanks or airplanes, neither did it portray present day leaders that played such an historic role during that most fateful period in Israel's modern history. Consistent with past strikings, the medal was based on a biblical theme. The obverse shows Moses holding the Tablets with the Ten Commandments and around the rim, in Hebrew, are the words "Shema Yisroel Adenoi Eloheinu Adenoi Ehod", (Hear Oh Israel, the LORD our GOD, the LORD is One). The reverse shows the Lion of Judah sitting on a pedestal with a seven-branched Menorah jutting out in the background. A Star of David is seen at the bottom. The medal is done in extremely high relief and in terms of sculpting it is considered as one of the most strikingly beautiful works of art.

The total population of Mexico's Jews is only about fifty-thousand. Some are descendants from small Sephardic groups that settled in 1907. From 1914 onwards, much larger groups of Ashkenazi Jews began arriving, and thus the core of a viable and vibrant community took shape. Today, in spite of their small numbers compared to the overall Mexican population of seventy-million inhabitants, they are liberally represented in the field of science, industry, commerce, music, art and civic affairs. It is also an amazing fact that despite their small number, they have created a microcosm of Jewish entities of learning, athletic clubs, libraries, health clinics, Day camps, and Senior Citizen's recreational and therapeutical centers. There is a Yid-

dish Press and other Judaic related publications, written mostly in Yiddish. They are called "Der Weg" (The Way), "Die Shtime" (The Voice), "Prensa Israelita" (Israelite Press—in Spanish), and many others.

The Yiddish theater has an important central role in the community. Unlike its counterpart in the United States, plays are offered exclusively in Yiddish, with some of the most reknown actors of the Jewish spectrum, such as Jacob Ben-Ami, Stella Adler, Joseph Buloff and the late Morris Schwartz. All of the major Jewish organizations are fully represented and also play an important role in their daily activities. They include B'nai B'rith, ORT, American Jewish Congress, YIVO Institute and W.I.Z.O.

Likewise, their contribution to Mexican and Jewish literature is disproportionately greater than their number. Talented poets like Jacob Glantz and Isaac Berliner, writers such as Mordechai Corona and Joseph Rotenberg, and novelists, journalists, literary critics, historians, philosophers and theologians, just to name a few, have enriched both the Mexican and Jewish horizon.

The Jewish Sports Center, called "Centro Deportivo Israelita", that was built in 1950 in Mexico City is one of the most ambitious and beautiful buildings, a great exponent of modern architecture and decor. Its modern swimming pool accommodated the athletes that participated in the 1968 Olympic games. However, the central theme of this magnificent structure is the one hundred and fifty yard long mural that took two years to paint and was finished in 1957. In breathtaking colour it

shows the highlights of Jewish life throughout history, starting with an imposing Moses and the Tablets of the Law; the Spanish Inquisition—which played a vivid role during the Spanish conquest of Mexico; the Sanhedrin, and the Jewish prophets. Amongst many other items, the mural also portrays Sigmund Freud, Baruch Spinoza, Heinrich Heine and Albert Einstein. This world-famous mural's art work was executed by Fanny Rabell, a student of the illustrious Diego Rivera.

However, times were not always as auspicious for the Jews of Mexico. In the thirteenth century, the Catholic Church created a Tribunal in order to punish heretics in Spain. For three hundred years, the Jews of Spain and Portugal were subjected to the most terrible punishments, for once they were forced into conversion and later on found to embrace the Jewish religion, they were doomed. Peru and Mexico were then called New Spain. Consequently, the Inquisition followed into the Spanish colonies. The very early arrivals to Mexico were Marranos—converted Jews—fleeing Spain, only to find that the overseas colonies were no better, and that the execution sites for offenders in the capital centers of Lima and Mexico City, were as active as in their country of origin. Some of these Maranos arrived with Hernan Cortez in 1519, as part of his army of conquistadors. The Inquisition's first trial was held in 1574, on

the plaza where today's Cathedral is standing, in Mexico City. Alameda Central Park was the site that the Inquisition Tribunal used to burn or strangle all convicted heretics, which was known as Plaza del Quemadero. On December of 1596, in the Province of Nuevo Leon, its then Governor, Luis de Carvajal y de la Cueva, and his relatives were burned by the Inquisition after being found guilty of "Jewish practices". It was during that dark period of Mexican history that many Jews as well as non-Jews perished. Consequently, a significant number of Jews went to live in small indian villages in order to hide their identity, thus creating many intermarriages.

It was not until February 24, 1821 that the Mexican patriot Agustin de Iturbide broke away from Spain in a Declaration of Independence based on the principles of Justice. Spanish institutions were dismantled, new laws enacted, and all cruelty dealing with innocent human beings were abolished. The dissatisfaction with Spanish rule had its roots and was also greatly influenced by the revolutions that took place both in the United States and France. The history of Mexico from then on takes sweeping dimensions, for there were many leading Mexican men of liberal thought, fighting for independence, thus laying the foundation of the country's future course and progress. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla and

Continued on page 31



42 mm
Gold-plated
Bronze



PHILATELIC EXHIBITION MEDALS

By Samuel Lachman
Haifa, Israel

The Philatelic Exhibition medals described on pages 51-52 of Sylvia Haffner's *Judaic Tokens and Medals* are not commemorative medals but award medals, not sold at exhibitions.

At such an exhibition first, second and third prizes are given, i.e. medals in gold, silver and bronze.

In addition, medals are presented to members of the jury and some other distinguished participants or sponsors. In total the quantities of the medals struck are small.

If I recall correctly, there were about 100 medals struck at the *Taba*

exhibition in Haifa in 1952 in all metals together. At least the medals awarded as prizes bear the name of the recipient on the reverse of the uniface medals; one with named reverse accompanies this article.

A collector can get a medal of the same class in a national or international exhibition only once.

Not represented in Haffner is the 1954 Jerusalem exhibition *Tabim*. Illustrated here is a plaquette of that exhibition, a gilded emblem on a dark green background. The items shown are the personal medal and plaquette of the writer. ☆



CALIFORNIA MUSCLE, NEW YORK COUNSEL AVERT PANIC IN '69

By A. Vattemare Persigny

The following recollection of post-Gold Rush days in San Francisco brings together a story of East and West coast financial derring-do after the Civil War. Told in matter-of-fact and dour style by its anonymous author, it offers the outline of what might have been a major banking panic for California.

Averting this threatened disaster were the muscles of San Francisco bankers accustomed to less taxing labors and the gentle persuasion of a pair of German-Jewish brothers of New York City, Jesse Seligman (1807-1894) and Joseph (1819-1880).

Bavarian born, the Seligmans were among the most important Jewish families in the U.S. during their lifetimes. Their counsel during the civil struggle, combined with European banking connections made possible the continued sale abroad of Union

securities in markets far more receptive to Confederate influence.

Joseph Seligman was offered the post of Secretary of the Treasury by new President Ulysses S. Grant but preferred to step aside from such a public post. Perhaps the brothers, founders of the important Union Club, accomplished more for the U.S. in other capacities.

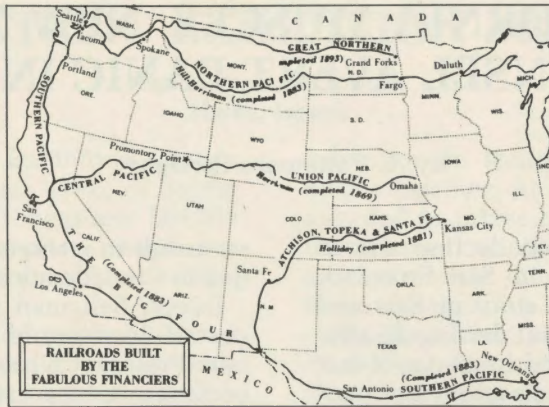
"Every bank will close"

As the western writer so dryly notes in this conclusion of this brush with disaster, Jesse Seligman "gave the President a banquet and showed him his mistake" after this "mistake" came within three days of causing a major financial dislocation in California.

It would be a Seligman misfortune after the family's patriotic efforts described here to experience another



May 10, 1869. East meets West at Promontory Point, Utah.



kind of "first," as Joseph Seligman in 1877 would be the first American Jew publicly denied resort accommodations, at Saratoga Springs' Grand Union Hotel. That, however, is another story. Here is the narrative by unknown pen of the great gold-moving night of 1869:

It was in the year 1869, William C. Ralston had loaned the railroad people some months before \$3,000,000, with which they pushed their line to Ogden, Utah, adding 100 miles to the Central Pacific in its cross-country race with the Union Pacific for mileage. This large sum had gone out of the State absolutely. Also \$2,000,000 had taken wing for South America to finance an investment there. Things were already a trifle tight when in July 1869, Jay Gould's famous "gold corner" raised the yellow metal to a huge premium and the gold coin of California was drained eastward, as through a sieve. The banks always carried a large amount of gold bars, but this was not available as coin, for the Mint happened to be shut down pending a change of administration.

The situation need not have been serious, for tucked away in the United States Sub-Treasury were \$14,000,000 in gold coin. It seemed the most legitimate transaction in the world to deposit gold bars in the Treasury and carry away an equal

value in coin. But President Grant, who was rather new on the job, for some unaccountable reason absolutely refused to sanction the transfer, although the bankers almost burned up the wires with their appeals. An uneasy feeling was over the town, the overcharged atmosphere of panic, apt to break loose at any moment into a resistless storm.

While the tension was at its height Asbury Harpending called at The Bank of California one afternoon and was ushered into the private office of Ralston. To tell the truth, he was feeling the pinch himself, and wanted to know something of the outlook.

The banker said Harpending was just the man he wanted to see. "If things go on as they are," he said, "every bank will be closed by tomorrow afternoon. Not one of us can stand a half day's run, and all will go down in a heap. Then look out for hell in general to break loose. This will happen if I don't get a million dollars in coin in the vaults tonight. But I intend to get it, and want you and Maurice Dore to help. Be at the bank at 1 o'clock tonight, and put on an old suit of clothes, for you will have plenty of hard work to do."

Dore and Harpending met by appointment shortly after midnight. They were utterly mystified. Together they tramped through the deserted, dimly lighted streets. It seemed just like old times—the time they

boarded the "Chapman" to become privateers. They found Ralston at the bank with one of its trusty officials, prominent in San Francisco. The financier was in high spirits, but counseled caution. The three walked noiselessly to the United States Sub-Treasury, then located on Montgomery between Sacramento and California streets, where the Selby offices afterward stood. A dim light was burning within. Ralston asked then to halt a few paces from the entrance; then to their great surprise he opened the door of the Sub-Treasury, without challenge of any kind, and closed it after him as he stepped inside. Presently he emerged with several sacks of coin. "Take that to the bank," he said. "The gentleman there will give you something to bring back."

The party at the bank received the cash, tallied it and handed back gold bars for the same value. These were taken to the Sub-Treasury, where Ralston smilingly awaited with a new cargo of sacks on the sidewalk. The group turned over the bars and made another journey to the bank.

Thus, at dead of night, passing to and fro, they transferred in actual weight, between the Sub-Treasury and the bank nearly five tons of gold. They did not get quite as much as Ralston wanted, before the light began to break. It was a heart-breaking job from a physical standpoint. Harpending was young and athletic and stood his end of it in good shape. But Maurice Dore was of sedentary habit, soft as mush, and he was on the verge of collapse. He was nearly chest foundered and had a swayback appearance for a month. During all this time, not a person passed to interrupt the transfer. This was doubtless due to a prearrangement with the policeman on the beat.

When The Bank of California opened the next morning a rather

ominous looking crowd was in waiting. Lines began to form behind the paying tellers' windows. It wasn't a "run," but a "near-run." Ralston appeared on the scene and looked annoyed, as he said, "Why are you making so many of our customers wait on a busy day? Put more tellers on the windows and have your coin on hand." More tellers went to the windows. Porters brought tray after tray from the vaults. It was amazing how the crowd changed their minds about wanting their money and melted away. And all over the troubled city the report spread that The Bank of California had coin to burn, and the news caused a general relief.

Nevertheless, a serious run started one one of the leading banks. Ralston hurried to the spot, mounted a dry goods box and addressed the crowd. He told them they were doing the bank and the city a great injustice. He declared that the bank was absolutely sound—which was the truth. He further told the crowd that they need not wait for a line-up. Just bring their books to The Bank of California and they would be accommodated with the cash there. Again, the crowd slunk away abashed.

Thus a tremendous panic, the consequences of which might have been world-wide, was averted by a bold front, a nervy bluff backed by a million in cash. Three days later, President Grant reversed himself and allowed gold to be exchanged at the Sub-Treasury for cash, which settled all anxiety. This was brought about through the agency of Jesse Seligman, the New York banker, who gave the President a banquet and then showed him his mistake. ☆

(Editor's Note: A version of this story appeared in the November 1975 issue of *Numismatic Scrapbook*, and appears here with permission of Amos Press Inc., Sidney, Ohio.)

MASADA ARCHAEOLOGIST TO CHAIR NUMISMATIC COMMITTEE OF BANK OF ISRAEL

Professor Yigael Yadin, the world famous archaeologist who uncovered Masada, and Commander-in-Chief of the Israeli Army, prior to becoming Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Numismatic Planning Committee of the Bank of Israel, announced Dr. Moshe Mandelbaum, Governor of the Bank of Israel.

Professor Yadin will succeed Dr. Alfred Witkon, a former Justice of the Supreme Court, who is retiring.

All paper money, trade coins and commemorative coins are issued by the Bank of Israel. Its Numismatic Planning Committee is responsible for researching and recommending themes for new issues. Since most of these draw on Jewish history and archaeology, Professor Yadin is a highly qualified and gifted choice to chair to committee.

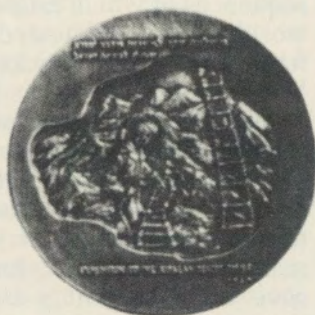
Dr. Yadin is the author of a number of important archaeological studies, and books designed to acquaint the general public with the historical importance of discoveries relating to ancient Israel.

News of the appointment was announced in Israel in the newspaper, *Ma'ariv*, on March 4, 1982. 🇮🇱

FINAL MINTAGES FOR 1981 INDEPENDENCE DAY COIN

The final mintage for the 1981 Independence Day Coin, "People of the Book" have been announced by the ICGAM:

Gold	5,673
Silver, proof	11,358
Silver, BU	16,356



NUMISMATIC HONORS FOR ARCHAEOLOGIST

In 1960, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion requested a medal to be struck honoring the archaeological team which explored Judean desert caves. This group found letters of Bar-Cochba, leader of the second Jewish revolt against the Romans (132-135 CE). The medal was struck by the ICGAM in bronze and in silver.

HOME, AT LAST (Conclusion)

Part III: A Guide to the Biblical Shekel

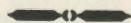
by D. Bernard Hoenig

(All Rights Reserved)

The Shekel is The Jewish Coin, a vital part of the Judaic heritage, the Biblical symbol of charity and goodness and unity. As such, it elevated money from its more mundane role in the market-place to something spiritually significant. This was the King of Coins and it was home, at last, serving to strengthen the link between the modern and ancient nations of Israel (From Part I of this series)



To understand and feel the spiritual significance of the Shekel and Half-Shekel, the numismatist must seek out the Biblical sources of the Shekel standard. Through this annotated guide—prepared especially for AINA by the author of this series together with his brother, Dr. Samuel N. Hoenig, Assistant Professor and Co-Chairman of Judaic Studies at Touro College in New York—the collector can better appreciate the inspiring heritage of Israel's modern coins and medals.



Numbers 31 : 52

And all the gold of the gift that they set apart for the Lord, of the Captains of thousands and of the Captains of hundreds, was 16,750 shekels.

Following the Israelite victory over the Midianites, gold booty having a value of 16,750 shekels was contributed by the captains of the army in thankfulness for their safe return.

Joshua 7 : 21

I saw among the spoil a fine Shinar Mantle, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels.

After the Israelite conquest of Jericho, Joshua imposes a ban on the spoils taken from the city. Achan, of the tribe of Judah, did not observe the ban and took of the spoils. Among the spoils were two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels.

I Samuel 9 : 8

The servant answered Saul again, "I happen to have a quarter shekel of silver . . ."

Saul and his servant, in search of Kish's (Saul's father) stray donkeys, decide to ask the prophet (Samuel) for help. The quarter shekel of silver was to be given as a token gift to the prophet. According to Targum Yonathan a shekel consists of four zuzim, a quarter of a shekel equivalent to one zuz. See article by Baruch Kanael, "Ancient Jewish Coins and their Historical Importance," *The Biblical Archaeologist Reader 3* (edited by E. Campell and D. Freedman), pp. 280-281. Anchor Books, New York, 1970.

I Samuel 17 : 5, 7

He had a bronze helmet on his head, and wore a breastplate of scale armor, a bronze breastplate weighing five thousand shekels. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's bar, and the iron head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels . . .

A reference to the weight of the armor and spear belonging to the "giant" Goliath the Philistine from the city of Gath, who was slain by the "young" David.

II Samuel 14 : 26

When he cut his hair—he had to have it cut every year, for it grew too heavy for him—the hair of his head weighed two hundred shekels by the royal weight.

The above refers to the weight of Absalom's hair. Absalom was the third son of David who plotted a revolt against his father. According to Talmudic tradition, Absalom, although having taken the Nazirite vow prohibiting the cutting of his hair, nevertheless, due to the heaviness of his hair, was permitted to cut it from year to year. It was Absalom's hair which brought about his death.

II Samuel 24 : 24

... so David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

Reference to the price of the threshing floor and oxen paid by King David to Araunah the Jebusite. The site of the threshing floor was to later become the location for the Temple in Jerusalem. In *I Chronicles* 21 : 25 the purchase price is set at six hundred shekels of gold—see *Talmud Bavli Zevachim* 116b.

II Kings 7 : 1, 16, 18

And Elisha replied: "Hear the word of the Lord. Thus said the Lord: This time tomorrow, a seah of choice flour shall sell for a shekel at the gate of Samaria, and two seahs of barley for a shekel." The people then went out and plundered the Armean camp. So a seah of choice flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel—as the Lord had spoken.

For when the man of G-D said to the king, "this time tomorrow two seahs of barley shall sell at the gate of Samaria for a shekel, and a seah of choice flour for a shekel."

The prophecy of Elisha, the Israelite prophet and disciple of Elijah concerning the famine in Samaria.

II Kings 15 : 20

Menahem exacted the money from Israel: Every man of means had to pay fifty shekels of silver for the king of Assyria . . .

During the reign of the Israelite king, Menahem ben Gadi (745-736 BCE), Pul (Tiglath-Pileser III) extended his campaign into Israel. Menahem desirous of retaining his throne paid Pul, the king of Assyria, one thousand talents of silver, towards which "every man of means had to pay fifty shekels of silver."

Jeremiah 32 : 9

So I bought the land in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel. I weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.

The seventeen shekels refers to the purchase price of a parcel of land bought by the prophet Jeremiah from his cousin Hanamel. According to *Targum Yonathan* the sum paid consisted of seven mina and ten salaim of silver.

Ezekiel 4 : 10

The food that you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; this you shall eat in the space of a day.

Part of a series of acts representing the coming doom of Jerusalem. The scant rations are symbolic of the siege-famine.

Ezekiel 45 : 12

And the shekel shall weigh twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels, twenty-five and ten plus five shekels shall count with you as a mina.

The enumeration of four different units (20, 25, 10, 5) suggests that such denominations were in use at that time. The mina referred to is the Mesopotamian mina of sixty shekels.

Amos 8 : 5

Saying, if only the new moon were over, so that we could sell grain; the Sabbath, so that we could offer wheat for sale, using an ephah that is too small, and a shekel that is too big, tilting a dishonest scale.

The prophet Amos in his vision of the "end" of Israel depicts the exploitation of the poor by the rich. They gave short measures of grain, but used oversized weights for the silver received in payment, committing an act of gross fraud. Cf. Leviticus 19 : 35, Deuteronomy 25 : 13 and Proverbs 20 : 10.

Nehemiah 5 : 15

But the former governors that were before me laid burdens upon the people and took of them for bread and wine above forty shekels of silver. . . .

Nehemiah describes how the previous governors of Judea (probably the officials at Samaria) took advantage of the people by demanding of them to supply bread and wine over and above the tax of forty shekels of silver.

Nehemiah 10 : 33

Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our G-D.

According to the exegete Ibn Ezra the third of a shekel was to be paid in addition to the annual half-shekel (see Exodus 30 : 11). Others interpret the third part of a shekel as reference to the then current value of the half-shekel in Persian currency, i.e., a third of a Persian shekel is equivalent to the Biblical half-shekel. See Jacob M. Myers, *The Anchor Bible, Ezra-Nehemiah*, pp. 178-179. Doubleday and Co., New York, 1965.


I Chronicles 21 : 25

So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.

See above II Samuel 24 : 24 and Fredrick W. Madden, *History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament*, pp. 2-3. Ktav, New York, 1967.

II Chronicles 3 : 9

And the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold . . .

Reference to the weight of the nails used in Solomon's Temple. 

Conclusion

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VIOLIN VIRTUOSO ISAAC STERN ANNOUNCED AS 1982 HONOREE BY THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

A short time ago over 200 guests gathered on the beautiful ground of the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California to attend the dedication ceremony for the new Jacques and Esther Reutlinger Gallery. The new extension adds substantially to the display space of the "Jewish Museum of the West." In addition to the new gallery, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame permanent display was shown for the first time. Thus, the thirteen year dream of Mel Wacks, Numismatic Consultant to the Magnes Museum, became a reality, all made possible by the sale of the annual Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals.

Local artists Jacques Schmier and Gerta Ries Wiener attended the opening ceremonies. Schmier designed the 1936 Bay Bridges Commemorative Half Dollar and the 1974 Herbert H. Lehman medal for the Magnes Museum. Wiener has created six of the annual Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals — Louis Brandeis (1971), Gershon Seixas (1975), Henrietta Szold



Jacques and Esther Reutlinger Gallery.



Reverse: The Carnegie Hall marquee is a familiar landmark to many AINA members since it is located only a few steps away from the New York Sheraton Hotel, headquarters for the Greater New York Coin Convention.



Initial design of the medal, which was later modified, showed Stern in an informal moment . . . wearing a cardigan; his signature was placed in the lower left corner.

(1976), *Golda Meir* (1978), *Rebecca Gratz* (1981), and the new 1982 *Isaac Stern* issue.

The original plaster model of the Stern medal was displayed on this occasion which also saw Numismatic Consultant Mel Wacks honored as a Museum Benefactor.

Mrs. Wiener worked on the *Isaac Stern* medal for almost a year. A major problem was finding suitable photographs of the famous violinist, who recently celebrated his 60th birthday. However, this difficulty was overcome when the artist viewed three showings of the Academy Award winning movie *From Mao to Mozart*, documenting Stern's visit to China. Afterwards she was able to sculpt his portrait from memory. Stern is shown on the medal in deep concentration as he plays his rare 1740 Guarneri violin.

Virtuoso violinist Isaac Stern was born in Kreminiesz, Russia on July 21, 1920. When just a year old, his family emigrated to the United States and settled in San Francisco. Stern took up the violin at the age of eight, and within three years was a soloist with the *San Francisco Symphony Orchestra*. His memorable Carnegie Hall debut was made in 1943. In 1960, thanks largely to Stern's efforts, historic Carnegie Hall was saved from demolition and he

has served as its president to this day. The famous 90-year old New York landmark is depicted in remarkable detail on the reverse of the *Isaac Stern* medal.

Stern has appeared in concerts throughout the world, and has gained recognition as an unofficial "United States Musical Ambassador." He found time to play a role in the Broadway show "Tonight We Sing" (1952), to inaugurate the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (1957), and to found the *Jerusalem Music Centre* in 1973. Stern is president of the *American-Israel Cultural Foundation* and a member of the *National Council on the Arts* since 1965.

The unique shape of the large 2-inch *Isaac Stern* medal, and all others in the *Jewish-American Hall of Fame* series, was created by Victor Ries, the distinguished artist who also happens to be Gerta Wiener's brother.

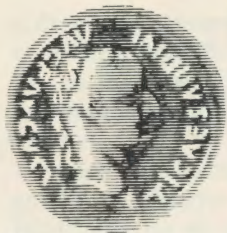
The mintages are very small, limited to 350 bronze (\$15), 50 pewter (430), 120 pure silver (\$85) and just 18 in 10 Karat gold (\$850). Each 2.5 troy ounce medal is individually edge-numbered. Half of the cost is accepted as a tax-deductible contribution to the non-profit Magnes Museum. Orders may be sent to the Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705. ♣

MEXICAN JEWRY *continued from page 21*

Jose Maria Morelos were some of the giants of Mexico that helped the country break away from Spain. Many Mexican Jews, descendants of the Jews of old Mexico, carry Spanish names of that period, like Mendoza, Perez y Perez, Carvajal and Montenegro.

It is interesting to note that the Yiddish language is the basis for the

Mexican Jewish community upbringing, and that very few medals that were struck had only Yiddish or Hebrew characters engraved. Today's Mexican Jews enjoy the full freedom of a just and great society and in turn their contribution to Mexico is most fruitful and productive. At the same time, they are also conscious and proud of their Jewish heritage. ☆



COINS OF THE BIBLE

David Hendin



The king who killed James

(10th of 12 parts)

Now about that time Herod (Agrippa) the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. (Acts 12:1-2)

Agrippa I was grandson of Herod the Great. He was educated in Rome, where he became friendly with his contemporaries Gaius (Caligula) and Claudius.

Once Emperor Tiberius had Agrippa imprisoned after hearing that Agrippa had wished him dead so that his friend Gaius could become "lord of the world."

But soon Tiberius died and Caligula ascended to the throne. He released Agrippa and made him tetrarch over the northern kingdoms once ruled by his uncle, Herod Philip II.

When two years later Caligula banished Antipas to Spain, Agrippa was given his territories as well.

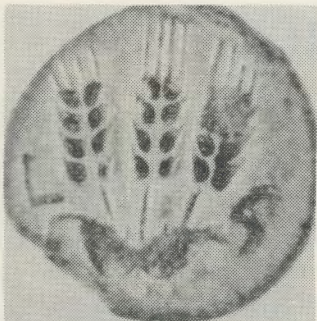
Agrippa was well acquaint-

ted with the Herodian tradition of "practical politics." He played a major role in helping Claudius to the throne when Caligula was killed. In gratitude, Claudius bestowed upon Agrippa the entire kingdom of his grandfather, Herod the Great.

Many people know Agrippa best of all the Herodians because he was portrayed as Claudius' friend in the popular television drama "I Claudius."

Although Agrippa was a friend of Rome, he was also pro-Jewish and worked to fortify Jerusalem. Always the practical politician, however, on some of his coins he proclaims himself "King Agrippa, the Great Lover of Caesar."

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)



BRONZE LEPTON of Agrippa I, minted 42 A.D. Obverse:
Royal canopy. Reverse: Three barley ears.

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